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Teacher Guide

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 3-6

***Kind News* helps students learn about animals and think critically about their responsibilities towards the wellbeing of others.**

The magazine encourages empathy and critical thinking in students and motivates students to take action to improve the lives of animals. *Kind News* uses articles and short features to introduce issues affecting animals, how to understand animal behavior and how to care for pets. There are questions built into articles throughout the magazine. These questions can be used to guide whole- or small-group discussions with your students.

SUBSCRIPTION QUESTION?

We will be happy to help you. Please contact:

KindNews@pubservice.com

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KIND NEWS

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Kind News™

Teacher Guide

JAN/FEB 2018

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 3-6

Welcome to a brand new year of *Kind News*!

There are now two editions of the magazine. This issue, *Kind News*, is for grades 3rd through 6th. We have renamed the edition for younger children *Kind News, Jr*

Our series on the emotional lives of cats and dogs continues with an exploration of aggression in cats. *Kind News* aligns with Common Core standards as well as the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and the Core Competencies for social and emotional learning (SEL) as identified by CASEL (the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning). The guide for this issue focuses on science and SEL standards.

Kind News helps students learn about animals, relate what they learn to their own lives and think critically about what it means to be kind to animals and people.

A PUBLICATION OF



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Kind News may be gifted to classrooms through the generosity of sponsors.

Many sponsors are local animal shelters and humane societies, and we are grateful for their sponsorship, as well as their work in finding new homes for animals and other programs that benefit local communities. If one of our banner sponsors below is that organization, please let parents know of their generosity in your class or school newsletter.

Thank you!



To learn about our educational program for students or groups ages K-6 **visit our website at FWACC.ORG.**



Prince William SPCA is Celebrating 10 years of sponsoring *Kind News* for classrooms in Prince William County, Manassas Park, and Manassas, Virginia.

FLIP OVER!

Turn the page for activities to use in your classroom that align to standards.



Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Aligned Activities



Third grade: 3-ESS3-1. Make a claim about the merit of a design solution that reduces the impacts of a weather-related hazard. After reading “Meet Summer,” discuss what caused Summer to have to leave her home: Hurricane Harvey. Discuss the effects of a hurricane (damage or injury due to high winds/ flooding) with students and ask them how some of the damage may have been prevented (such as flood barriers or wind-resistant roofs).

Fourth grade: 4-LS1-2. Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways. Ask students to read “The Amazing World” and the Fun Fact on p. 6. Then ask students what they already know about the terms “predator” and “prey” and jot answers down. Create a brief definition for each term and write it where students can see it similar to the below:

Prey: an animal that is hunted and killed by another animal for food.

Predator: an animal that uses other animals for food.

Then ask students what kind of vision they have: binocular or monocular (binocular). Ask them to imagine that they have monocular vision, giving them time to figure out what would be visible to them. Would having monocular vision help them as a predator? Why or why not? If they were prey for other animals, which kind of vision would be helpful? Why? Extend the activity by asking students what the prefixes “bi” and “mono” mean and how this helps them remember the two different types of vision. Based on what students now understand, have them look at pictures of other animals and predict whether they are predators or prey based on the location of their eyes. For a complete lesson plan, with hands-on experiments, visit KindNews.org, scroll to the bottom of the page and select “Download Lesson Plans.”

Fifth grade: 5-ESS2-1. Develop a model using an example to describe ways the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and/or atmosphere interact. After reading “Meet Summer,” discuss the impact of the hurricane that caused her to leave her home. Review what students already know about hurricanes. What causes them? What about the location and environment in the Gulf Coast of Texas made it more susceptible to the hurricane than other areas of the country? Ask students to research various hurricanes in recent history and choose one to present to the class with a focus on strength and environmental and human impact. To add multimedia components, include visual and audio in the presentation.

Sixth Grade: MS-LS4-2. Apply scientific ideas to construct an explanation for the anatomical similarities and differences among modern organisms and between modern and fossil organisms to infer evolutionary relationships. Ask students to read “The Amazing World” and the Fun Fact on p. 6. Why do they think humans evolved to have binocular vision? What are the advantages of this kind of vision to a predator? Why would other animals evolve to have monocular vision? Could this be helpful to both predator and prey animals? Ask students to come up with at least two animals with each type of vision and compare them: How do they get their food? What other characteristics besides vision have helped them survive?

BOOK NOOK

How To Speak Cat

Written by **Sarah Whitehead**
For ages 9 and up

Learn more about how to communicate with cats by understanding their vocalizations and body language from their ears to their tail. Find helpful tips on creating a healthy, happy and safe home, playing and talking with your four-legged family member. Detailed language and bright photos make this a fun and easy-to-follow tool for both new and experienced pet owners.

For more animal book ideas, visit RedRover.org/books.





Critter Clues FROM PAGE 6

Our mystery critter is a **GUINEA PIG**.

Animal Emotions & Social and Emotional Learning

Discussing the Kind Questions at the end of this issue aligns with the Core Competencies of “Self-Awareness” and “Social Awareness” as identified by CASEL: the ability to label feelings, relate thoughts and feelings to behavior, and think from another’s perspective (the cognitive foundation for empathy). **After reading the article on page 8**, ask students to show what they look like when they are nervous, scared and happy. Are any of their actions or facial expressions similar to those that they read or imagine Summer (or dogs in general) have? What do they do to express these emotions differently from dogs? **For more animal behavior activities, scroll down to find “Coloring Pages and Activities” at KindNews.org.**

You can also download the free interactive graphic novel and game app, *The Restricted Adventures of Raja*, and use it in your classroom! The adventure story includes illustrations that show accurate animal behavior, built-in questions to prompt perspective-taking and empathy skills, and features characters that want to make the world a better place. The game provides students a way to practice making decisions based on what they’ve learned in the story. **The app is available in the Apple App Store and Google Play, and the book and game can be played in English or Spanish. A lesson plan to go with the app is also available to download at RedRover.org/ebook.**



FROM PAGE 5

Raja, the cat in the illustration, is expressing anger or aggression. You can tell by the hissing, arched back, laid back ears, wide eyes and erect, straight guard hairs along his back.

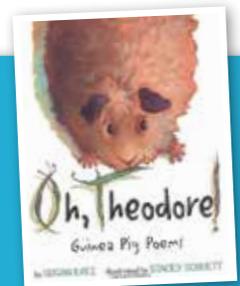
BOOK NOOK

Oh, Theodore! Guinea Pig Poems

Written by **Susan Katz**

Illustrated by **Stacey Schuett**

For ages 4 and up



Want to learn more about guinea pigs in a creative way? **Oh, Theodore! Guinea Pig Poems**—told through an engaging series of poems that tie together to form a plot—is the touching story of the relationship between a boy and his guinea pig. As the boy patiently learns about Theodore’s needs through trial and error, a bond forms between the two. Fun, colorful and realistic illustrations are abundant throughout. Patience and guinea pig behaviors are themes included in this book.

For more animal book ideas, visit RedRover.org/books.